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Culpepper County) lying above the mouth of the great Kanaway. — His is comprehended within a grant of 200,000 acres, it is also fixed at a place where two or three other Grants are laid & I believe some of them older; but yet as it lyes in the way of a scheme I have in view; and would in some smaller degree promote my Plan if I had it, I should be obliged to you if you would enquire in a round about way who this Powell is and where he lives, & tell me who you think the most likely person for me to employ to purchase his right to the grant. — You need not let your reasons for enquiring after Powell be known, till you have given me what information you can concerning him, least it may give him or others cause to imagine that his grant is more valuable than it really is; In fact, I do not think that it is intrinsically worth a groat (tho I would give a little or 10 pounds for it, if I could not get it for less) in as much as it is totally swallowed up in other Grants; but several of this sort may in some measure give me a prior claim to have my share of 200,000 acres above the Mouth of the Gr Kanaway where I am told the land is very fine, it is for this reason therefore I would even give a little for Powell's.

In the whole of your transactions, either with the Officers, or on this other matter; do not let it be known that I have any concern therein. I have enclosed you a copy of the Bond I drew from Thruston to Lund Washington, which will serve you for a Precedent in case you should make any purchases. — I have put your name in the place of Lund Washington's, as I would have the title given to you, and not to me till matters are riper than they appear to be at present.

I shall take care to furnish you with money as you may find occasion to compleat the quantity I have mentioned. Show no part of this letter, so that you can be drawn into no difficulty trouble or in this affair. — In the meantime I should be glad if you would write to me fully by the first post after this gets to hand.

I am Y^r Most Affect. Brother

GEO. WASHINGTON

P.S. Inclosed you will receive 30 p. to pay the within Acct. of James Brown. — tho I think it is a most enormous charge as I should be glad you would tell him.

TRUMBULL CORRESPONDENCE

The recent publication of Mr. White's *Life of Lyman Trumbull*, which is reviewed in this number (*post*, 140), brings to light many important letters from the Trumbull papers in the Library of Congress and reveals the value of that collection. Unfortunately, however, Trumbull appears to have kept copies of only a very few of his letters and so this collection needs to be supplemented by letters from Trumbull in other places. The following letters are from two private collections and throw some light

on Trumbull's political activities from 1858 to 1872. The Flagg manuscripts belong to Hon. Norman G. Flagg of Moro, Illinois; and the Fell manuscripts to the Misses Alice and Fannie Fell of Normal, Illinois. Transcripts of both collections have been made by the Illinois Survey of the University of Illinois.

TRUMBULL TO FLAGG, January 8, 1858

[Flagg MSS.—A. L. S.]

WASHINGTON, Jany. 8—1858.

W. C. FLAGG, Esq.¹⁰

MY DR. SIR,

I have just mailed the 3^d & 4th Vols of Pacific Railroad Surveys to Franklin Library association, which I hope may reach their destination in good condition—1^s & 2^d Vols previously sent. I also sent you a few days since the 3^d & 4th Vols. of Am. Statistics—2^d Vol. of this work is not yet published.

The Bbl of apples which you so kindly presented me, I opened a few days since, & they are very nice. I like the flavor of the apple very much. They came in good condition. We see no such apples here, & it has afforded me a good deal of satisfaction to have them to show to some of my Congressional friends.

The Rumpus among the Bogus Democrats will in the end help our cause. Cannot exactly tell yet what is to become of Douglas. Seeing the fate which awaits Mr. Buchanan's Administration he is making haste to cut loose from it, but he must go much farther than he has yet done to be acceptable to Republicans. No man who endorses the Dred Scott Decision ought to find favor with our friends.

It is doubtful whether the Le Compton Constitution can be put through Congress. It will undoubtedly pass the Senate, if the Administration wishes it.

Truly Yours

LYMAN TRUMBULL

[*Addressed:*] Willard Flagg, Esq. Paddock's Grove Illinois

[*Franked:*] L. Trumbull, U. S. S.

¹⁰ Willard Cutting Flagg was born near Edwardsville, Illinois, in 1829. After graduating from Yale in 1854, he took charge of his father's farm in Madison County, Illinois, and devoted himself to horticulture. In politics, he was a Republican; and in 1860 President Lincoln appointed him collector of internal revenue for the twelfth district of Illinois, a position which he held until 1869. He was also enrolling officer for Madison County during the war, by appointment of Governor Yates, and was state senator from 1869 to 1873. He does not appear to have gone into the Liberal Republican movement, but a year or two later he played a leading part in the "Farmers' Movement" or "Granger Movement" as it was called, which culminated in the formation of an "Independent Reform" party in Illinois in 1874. Flagg was always a hard-money man; and he strove, but without success, to keep this organiza-

TRUMBULL TO FELL, June 7, 1861

[Fell MSS. — A. L. S.]

SPRINGFIELD June 7 61

JESSE H [W]. FELL, Esq.¹¹

DEAR SIR,

I recommended Dr. Arter for the position he desired and have no knowledge of the influences by which he was defeated and Col. Sloo appointed, but it has been intimated that they had their origin about Bloomington¹²

Yours truly

L. TRUMBULL

TRUMBULL TO FELL, February 1, 1862

[Fell MSS. — A. L. S.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1862

JESSE W. FELL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

The slavery question, I presume, had nothing to do with Cameron's removal. There were probably causes enough for it, without supposing that to be one. Stanton I have not seen since he was appointed, but our earnest men here who have conversed with him, say he is fully up to all they could ask. For myself I feel very much encouraged by the change. Your matter I will bear in mind, also that of Col. Hovey.¹³ The weather
tion from adopting the Greenback planks. He died in the prime of life, on March 30, 1878. See the "Pioneer Letters of Gershom Flagg" in Illinois State Historical Society, *Transactions*, 1910, especially note 113 and references there given.

¹¹ Jesse W. Fell was born in Pennsylvania in 1808 and came to Illinois in 1831. He founded the city of Normal, near Bloomington, and was instrumental in securing the location there of the Illinois State Normal University. He was an intimate personal and political friend of Lincoln and was one of the first to urge him to seek the Republican nomination for the presidency. It was in response to his request that Lincoln wrote down the information about his early life contained in his autobiography. Fell sent the document to a friend in Pennsylvania who made it the basis of a newspaper sketch of Lincoln. In 1862 President Lincoln appointed Fell a paymaster in the army, which position he held for two years. In 1872 he was a delegate to the Liberal Republican convention at Cincinnati where he supported the candidacy of David Davis of Bloomington for the presidential nomination. He died in 1887. Moses, *Illinois, Historical and Statistical* (Chicago, 1890), 2: 811; Bateman and Selby, *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois* (Chicago, 1899), 163.

¹² Trumbull refers probably to David Davis of Bloomington, Illinois, who had considerable influence with President Lincoln.

¹³ Charles Edward Hovey assisted in the organization of the Illinois State Normal University at Normal and served as its president from 1857 to 1861. In August, 1861, he was commissioned colonel of the Thirty-third Illinois Volunteers, known as the "Normal" or "Schoolmasters" regiment. He was advanced to the rank of brigadier-general and then to brevet major-general in 1862, but left the service the following year and engaged in the practice of law in Washington. Bateman and Selby, *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois*, 238.

& roads render any movement in the field impracticable about here just now; but as soon as they will permit, I shall look for action, vigorous action.

Very truly Yours

LYMAN TRUMBULL

[*Addressed:*] Jesse W. Fell, Esq. Bloomington Ill.

[*Franked:*] L Trumbull U. S. S.

LINCOLN TO TRUMBULL, February 10, 1864

[Flagg MSS. — A. L. S.]

EXECUTIVE MANSION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 1864.

HON. LYMAN TRUMBULL

MY DEAR SIR,

This morning I sent the nomination of — Pieper to the Senate for Assessor in the 12th District of Illinois. If you see no objection, I wish you would write to Mr. Flagg, asking him to give Shiel the place Pieper now has.

Yours truly

A. LINCOLN

If young Mr. S Scheel is competent, & qualified in all respects, I hope you will consult the President's wishes.

L. TRUMBULL.

Feb. 12 64

[*In margin:*] What are Scheel's politics.

[*Addressed:*] W. C. Flagg Esq. Moro Ill.

[*Franked:*] L. Trumbull U. S. S.

TRUMBULL TO FLAGG, December 24, 1866

[Flagg MSS.—A. L. S.]

(Private)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24, 66

W. C. FLAGG, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR:

It is sometime since I have heard from you on political matters, but knowing how strongly you are grounded in the true faith there is no mistaking your position.

Will you be at Springfield at the meeting of the Legislature? My prospects for reelection are very good, more than two thirds of the Republican members being either instructed or committed in my favor; but as several Gentlemen want the position an effort will doubtless be made to get up a public Sentiment when the Legislature meets that will change members. To prevent this I shall need friends at Springfield, & I should be gratified if you could be present & use your influence in my behalf.

I understand Jas P. Root¹⁴ & certain members of the State Central

¹⁴James P Root was secretary of the Republican state central committee from

Com. who undertook last Fall to run the committee in the interest of Logan,¹⁵ are now maneuvering to make Dinsmoor of Whiteside Speaker. I hope this movement will not succeed. Am inclined to think Dinsmoor¹⁶ is no friend of mine, at all accounts, I hope the set who are at work to make him Speaker may be thwarted. I suppose Yager¹⁷ may be relied on, but I hope you and other friends from Madison may be at Springfield the first week of the Session.

Very truly Yours

LYMAN TRUMBULL

[*Addressed:*] W. C. Flagg, Esq. Alton, Ill.

[*Franked:*] L. Trumbull U. S. S

TRUMBULL TO FELL, December 27, 1866

[Fell MSS. — A. L. S.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27, 1866

JESSE W. FELL,

MY DEAR SIR,

I will request the com. of agriculture to furnish yourself & son with Flower & Garden seeds as desired by your note just rec^d

Will you be at Springfield the first week of the session? My information leads me to think that I shall have no serious opposition, unless it can be got up after the Legislature assembles by creating a public sentiment at Springfield which shall overawe & change the present disposition of members. To meet anything of this kind I shall need to have present some cool, reliable friends & I should be gratified if you could be one of them.

As I shall not probably be able to go out on account of pressing business in congress, those opposed to me may take advantage of my absence to misrepresent my action or otherwise prejudice members against me. I do not now anticipate any trouble, but still am anxious that some of my reliable friends who are not members should be present.¹⁸

Yours very truly

LYMAN TRUMBULL

1864 to 1868. He was also clerk of the house of representatives for the twenty-sixth general assembly, 1868-1870 and a representative from Chicago in the twenty-seventh general assembly, 1870-1872. Moses, *Illinois, Historical and Statistical*, 2: 981.

¹⁵ General John A. Logan had just been elected congressman-at-large from Illinois.

¹⁶ James Dinsmore was a representative from Whiteside County in this and the following general assemblies. He was not brought out as a candidate for speaker.

¹⁷ John H. Yager (or Yeager) was a representative from Madison County in this general assembly.

¹⁸ Trumbull's reelection was opposed on the grounds that he had held the office two terms and that it should go to one of the war heroes. General Palmer was brought forward as a candidate and was supported by Generals Oglesby and Logan. The test

TRUMBULL TO FLAGG, January 10, 1872

[Fell MSS. — A. L. S.]

(Private)

WASHINGTON, Jan'y 10 72

HON W. C. FLAGG,

MY DEAR SIR,

I write to inquire about the political feeling at Springfield. Are the Republicans agreed to take Grant for another term to be run by a set of men who are using the patronage & influence of the Govt. for mercenary & selfish purposes? The Govt. is full of abuses. The Civil Service Com. all friends of the Administration, estimate the loss in collecting the revenue at one fourth. How much is lost in its disbursement they do not say. I suppose Grant will be renominated, & I think much better of *him* than of his surroundings. Can we correct abuses & reform the finances &c. with him? Many persons, good Republicans, think not, & and that the only way to improve matters is to run an Independent Republican who would probably get most of the Democratic vote and be elected. There is a good deal of this feeling here. Leading men favor it. The Democrats do not know what to do, but would probably make no nomination in the event indicated. I have not committed myself to any independent movement. I do not intend to be driven out of the Republican party, though some men would be glad to drive me out, & I confess it requires a good deal of self denial at times to help maintain an organization, the leading spirits in which hate & despise you and merely consent to use you for their own purposes. You are the only person to whom I have written a letter of this character, but in view of what is going on here, I wanted to inquire of some confidential friend who was in a position to know, as to the feeling at home.

Sincerely your friend

LYMAN TRUMBULL

[Addressed:] Hon. W. C. Flagg, Springfield, Ills.

[Franked:] L. Trumbull U. S. S

TRUMBULL TO FELL, March 9, 1872

[Flagg MSS. — A. L. S.]

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,

WASHINGTON, Mar 9, 1872

JESSE W. FELL, Esq

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours of the 4th was duly recd—Matters are progressing finely here. The success of the Cincinnati convention is I think assured—am almost vote in the Republican caucus resulted in forty-eight for Trumbull and twenty-eight for Palmer; and Trumbull was reelected without difficulty. Moses, *Illinois, Historical and Statistical*, 2: 767.

daily hearing of movements in different states to send delegations — Have just heard that Iowa will be represented. There ought to be an outspoken movement in Ills.

The best elements of the Republican party will be represented at Cincinnati.

Yours very truly

LYMAN TRUMBULL

LEONARD SWETT ¹⁹ TO FELL, April 1, 1872

[Fell MSS. — A. L. S.]

CHICAGO April 1 — 1872

JESSE W. FELL, Esq.

Bloomington, Ill.

DEAR SIR:

There is a strong Trumbull feeling at Springfield, Alton & Belleville — I suppose fifty people will go from Springfield to Cincinnati in his interest, and if we don't look out, after all we will be overshadowed by numbers.

It must be arranged that a train with a low rate of fare, if not entirely free should start from Bloomington with a view of taking a large delegation from McLean, Tazewell, Livingston, Logan, Dewitt Champagne, Ford, Iroquois and Vermillion. These counties are unanimously for Davis, and we must get the bulk of our delegation from them. If the train can be arranged, I will go to Ford, Iroquois, Champagne and Vermillion, and I think I can arrange for good delegations from those counties.

I was at Ford County last week three days, and I think that from a dozen to twenty men can be got to go from there. I also heard favorably from Champagne and Vermillion.

Your telegram to meet you came while I was out of town.

Yours Truly

LEONARD SWETT

TRUMBULL TO FELL, April 10, 1872

[Fell MSS. — A. L. S.]

WASHINGTON, Apr. 10 — 1872

JESSE W. FELL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR

I am just in receipt of yours of the 11th I never saw either of the despatches to which you refer in the Ev. Post, till I recd your letter,

¹⁹ Leonard Sweet resided in Bloomington until 1865 when he removed to Chicago. He was a representative in the Illinois legislature, 1858-1860; presidential elector and candidate for the Republican nomination for governor in 1860; and delegate to the Union national convention of 1864 and the Liberal Republican convention of 1872. He

which came through the mail this morning. The despatch purporting to come from here & undertaking to give my refusal to deny — was all a fabrication — Am sorry you should have been troubled by it — We must be prepared to see all sorts of reports set afloat by our adversaries, just for the purpose of making trouble.

Yours very truly

LYMAN TRUMBULL

TRUMBULL TO FELL, April 11, 1872

[Fell MSS. — A. L. S.]

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,

WASHINGTON, Apr 11 1872

JESSE W. FELL. Esq

MY DEAR SIR,

I am in receipt of yours of the 8th & rejoice to learn both from you & by telegram that the Liberal movement is growing in Ill. Originally you know we both thought it would not do to make nominations at Cincinnati, & perhaps I have adhered to that opinion longer than you — in fact I somewhat doubt its policy even now; but the movement has assumed such proportions that no one person, nor indeed can any small number of persons control it. I should have been glad to have kept this question of candidates in the back ground, and to have had the convention, if it thought proper to name candidates, select such as would be likely to command the largest Republican vote, & would not be especially objectionable to the Democrats but as you say, the whole people are discussing this very question & we cannot help it. I am in earnest and want success. Gen. Schurz & I speak in New York to-morrow night — The movement is gaining strength daily & we here feel encouraged.

Yours very truly

LYMAN TRUMBULL

returned to the Republican party and was again a delegate to its national convention in 1888. Moses, *Illinois, Historical and Statistical*; Bateman and Selby, *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois*, 515.